

PRESS RELEASE

Congressman John Conyers, Jr.

**Fourteenth District, Michigan
Ranking Member, Committee on the Judiciary
Dean, Congressional Black Caucus**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
January 15, 2003**

**CONTACT:
Danielle Brown (202) 225-6906**

**CONYERS ON BUSH AFFIRMATIVE ACTION DECISION:
“A WINK AND A NUDGE TO EXTREMISTS”**

“I am shocked and disheartened by President Bush’s recent decision to declare his opposition to the University of Michigan’s affirmative action. Once again, we see that the Bush Administration uses doublespeak like ‘affirmative access’ which is nothing more than the same old wine in new bottles and is nothing more than a continuation of the same old Republican southern strategy. It just shows the distance between President Bush’s rhetorical denunciation of Trent Lott and the reality that, like Lott, he will give a wink and a nudge to the extremists in his party who do not believe in racial inclusion.

It is an insult to the African-American community to claim that affirmative action has anything to do with quotas, which were declared unconstitutional in 1995. Most Americans understand that, in a country where a Senate Majority Leader regrets Strom Thurmond’s loss of the Presidency, discrimination still exists and there must be a remedy for that discrimination. This decision is one step back toward Strom Thurmond’s separate and unequal society.

Members of the Congressional Black Caucus and I have requested to meet with members of the administration to discuss this important civil rights issue, but on each occasion our calls have been ignored. Today’s decision appears to be yet another slap in the face of African American and minority leaders across the country.”

Jud-108-1/15/03